



# Arizona State Retirement System

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[WWW.AZASRS.GOV](http://WWW.AZASRS.GOV)

## **News Release**

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*For Immediate Release*

### **ASRS releases 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

The Arizona State Retirement System is pleased to release its 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The 148-page report provides detailed information on finances, investments, actuarial data and general statistics of the agency for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

Outside auditors charged with reviewing the report confirmed that the agency is operating up to industry standards, as no findings or recommendations to the ASRS regarding its internal controls, accounting, administrative or operating processes were warranted, they noted.

We believe the report continues to meet the standards and requirements for reporting as set forth by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. ASRS annual reports have received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past 20 years. This year's report will again be submitted for the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement.

Statistics in the report reflect the year ended June 30, 2009. They show:

- ASRS membership totaled a record 556,016, including 99,125 retirees and survivor beneficiaries who are receiving lifelong monthly benefits.
- There are 223,323 actively contributing members working for over 700 separate employers.
- The average monthly benefit paid was just over \$1,600.
- The ASRS paid out more than \$2 billion in benefits to retirees and beneficiaries.
- The ASRS portfolio totaled approximately \$21 billion.
- The rate of return on the ASRS total fund was -18.1 percent.
- The funded status of the total plan based on actuarial value was 79.1%.

Fiscal year-end data is used to calculate ASRS contribution rates. It has been determined that contribution rates for the 2010 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2010, will be 9.85 percent for both employee and employer. This is a slight increase from the current rate of 9.40 percent and is due largely to rates of return over the past several years.

In keeping with the State of Arizona's emphasis on electronic business and cost savings on printing, the annual report is being made available in electronic format on our website.

To view the entire report, please visit the ASRS website at [www.azasrs.gov](http://www.azasrs.gov) under the ASRS Central category, Publications section.